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San Jose State at San Diego State Postgame Quotes Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. Dec. 8, 2019

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

On difficulty of Malachi's winning shot with three defenders:

"For most people that would be a tough shot, but not for him. That's what he does. That's why he's here, to take important shots and I don't think there's anything more San Jose could've done to defend it. They did a great job making it a very hard shot. Sometimes, as a coach, you can draw up all the plays you want, but sometimes players make plays to win or lose games. They made a play good enough to win the game and we made a play good enough to win the game, and the coaches didn't have anything to do with either shot. The players made the plays to win the game."

On Malachi's winning three:

"That's a March Madness type of a shot, expect it happened in December."

On depth of the team and KJ's performance:

"The one thing you can always say if you watch Aztec basketball is nobody plays unafraid offensively. We don't micromanage every shot they take because once we steal their (our players) confidence, we can't give it back to them. They have to play with confidence."

On if the team has reached its peak performance:

"I've been telling them even after Vegas that this team is not anywhere near what it can be. We have so much more upside that we can improve on. They believe that too. They know we can play better, and that's individually like KJ (Feagin) making some shots, or Nathan (Mensah) getting a few more touches and finishing inside. We can get better individually and then we can get better collectively. If we continue to play at an elite level in practice, eventually it will transfer to the game floor."

San Diego State Junior Forward Matt Mitchell

On Flynn's game-winning shot:

"It was surreal. Malachi's a tough shot maker, we've seen it in practice before, but still to see it in a game is just surreal. I'm glad we got a win and I'm glad he helped protect the undefeated record."

On defenders guarding Flynn's shot:

"I didn't see the defenders but at that point I don't think it really matters. Any guy that has the ball in that situation has to put it up. I think we'd rather have Malachi in that situation."

On game that could've gotten away:

"This is definitely a game that could've gotten away from us had Malachi not hit that shot. I think we should take this game as a learning lesson. We can't tip-toe in the first half and even to start the second half. We can't tip-toe, we have to come out and make a statement. We have to come out hard each game."

On Mensah's play in the second half:

"That's just what he does. We tell him to do that all game. He came out in the second half and came out hard. He played just lovely. Kudos to him and hopefully he can do that the rest of the season."

San Diego State Junior Guard Malachi Flynn

On his game-winning shot:

"I've hit a couple tough shots at the end of games but this one was huge. This one definitely was the best one yet because right now we're still undefeated. So that was big. San Jose came out to play today but we kept with them."

On if he was confident in the shot:

"It felt good as soon as it left my hands."

On defenders guarding his shot:

"I just knew I had space to get it off and I let it go. I don't know who was around me, but I knew I had space."

On SJSU staying close:

"They played a really good game, we can't take anything away from them. On our part, we have to come out and set the tone early. We let them hang in for a while and they got really confident and started hitting tough shots. They definitely played a good game and (they taught us that) we can change some things on our part."

On design of last play:

"It was supposed to be a post-touch basket but they played really good defense so Jordan (Schakel) just had to pop out. He got double (defended a little bit ad they kind of trapped them. He got out of it and I just came running to the ball. I was on the right side, he got it on the left and got trapped. He was kind of stuck and couldn't really do anything at that moment so I just came and tried to get the ball. They guarded it well. I'm just happy it went in, we escaped tonight."

San Jose State Head Coach Jean Prioleau

Opening Statement:

"It really does come down to a make or miss game. It sounds really trivial, and 'that there's not a lot of substance behind that,' but it comes down to making or missing no matter how hard you play. Both teams played really hard; we had a guy that was going away from the basket turning fading and shot over two guys and made it, and it's a testament to our players because obviously we're a good team. I've been saying that all along. I know it hasn't showed up in the scores this season, but I do think the back end of that is who we've played against. Because of the teams that we've played against, Pac-12 mainly, we are ready to step up into arenas and play against high level teams. I think we got their (SDSU's) best shot, I think they played as well as they possibly could and we were right there in their face."

On SDSU's play:

"Hats off to them. Obviously, you know they've won a lot of games in here and we are trying to get our program to that level. I think we are taking the right steps towards that. I know it doesn't look like that in our record, but I do think that the games that we have played has enabled us to be ready for this type of atmosphere."

On what SJSU did defensively:

"To be honest, we didn't really do anything. I talked about it last game, we have to get our rest, because having energy is very important for our team. I've lightened the load in practice, we have not gone up and down the lot and because of that, we have our energy to be able to last for games. It takes a lot of energy. You have to expend a lot of energy at this level, especially at the level we're playing at right now. That's all it was, we didn't do anything special just man on man, "Alright you think you're good? We're good too. You're going to make a shot, we're going to make a shot too." I went zone late in the game which put us in a position to win the game and it actually did what it was supposed to do. We just didn't come up with the rebound and they got the ball back with five seconds and made a big time shot."